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PAGES 9 TO 16.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1896.—SIXTEEN PAGES.

PAGES 9 TO 16.

## FIGHT ALL NIGHT TO SAVE THEIR HOMES.

Burning Woods Threaten Hamlets Beyond New Brunswick, N. J.

Acres of Burning Trees and Dry Leaves Fill Villagers with Terror.

VICTORY COMES AT THE DAWN.

Fire Covers Seven Hundred and Fifty Acres, and Although No Human Lives Are Lost, Many Head of Cattle Perish.

New Brunswick, N. J., April 20.—The residents of the cozy little villages that dot the road just beyond Weston's Mill, three miles from this city, kept anxious vigil last night when a great fire swept through the forest at the rear of their homes. About this season every year a piece of woodland stretching from Weston's Mill for half a mile becomes fired, and although the houses are generally safe, the fire gained such headway last night that every man, woman and child in the vicinity was kept awake, either to fight the fire or to fly should their homes be attacked by the flames.

A forest fire of any proportions is unusual in this part of the State. The woods at Weston's Mill had been the rendezvous during the afternoon of parties in search of the trailing arbutus, the first of the Spring flowers.

It is believed the fire was caused by cigar or cigarette sparks. The woods were strewn with dead leaves, dry and inflammable. Late last night the alarm was given that the woods were burning near the farm of Freeholder Milton A. Edgar. Word was sent all along the line of the fire and the fire was quickly put out. Back during the Western style in game during prairie fires, was resorted to, are spots were made, and on the edge of the light grass huge piles of leaves and other combustibles were heaped and coaxed off. Soon the flames spread into the forest and joined with the great blaze that was licking up, acre after acre of woodland.

The men had to work quickly, for the flames swept rapidly through the trees. Here and there, where there was a stretch of woods near a habitation a ditch was dug and the dirt scattered over the ground. The messier place, occupied by James Service, had a very narrow escape. William Now, the proprietor of the Swan Hotel, aroused all his guests, who went to work to help save his property. He did not lose a dollar, but the fire kept him and his helpers up all night.

At 4 o'clock this morning the woods were still burning, but the greatest danger was over. An estimate places the number of acres traveled by the flames as 750. So far as was learned no human lives were lost, but some cattle perished.

## CEMETERY IN FLAMES.

Strange Spectacle Added to the Ravages Made by the Mountain Fires Near Port Jervis.

Port Jervis, N. Y., April 20.—The entire west side of the Shawangunk Mountain, near this village, has been burning for the last two days, and thousands of acres of valuable timber and farm land have been burned over. The fire now covers a tract nearly five miles in length and extends from about midway on the mountain side to the top.

About 10,000 cords of wood, which were piled ready to be taken to market, have been destroyed. The winter's output of railroad ties has also been consumed. Travel between Coleville and Tappanville is suspended, and the stage carrying the mails is compelled to make a circuit of nearly twenty miles to reach this village.

The house and barn of James Davenport, near Sand Pond, were destroyed, and Davenport and his family had narrow escapes. They were surrounded by fire on all sides and were compelled to seek refuge in the swamp. The intense heat forced them into the pond, where they remained for about six hours. The faces of the women and children were horribly blistered. The farmers are engaged in fighting the fire, but so far they have made little headway. Nothing but a heavy rain will extinguish the fires.

At dusk last evening some one applied a match to the dry leaves in the old Maghooch cemetery on Main street, on the outskirts of the village. The fire spread with rapidity and when the neighbors had gathered, the cemetery was a sheet of fire. There was no water near. The cemetery is an old one and has not been used for a number of years. It was covered with heavy underbrush and dry leaves. A strong wind was blowing.

The cemetery presents a sad spectacle to-day. The marble monuments are blackened, cracked and crumbling, and it is impossible to distinguish the lettering on them. The fence, which is a wreck, was erected by the late William Bross, editor of the Chicago Tribune, at his own expense.

Long Island Woods Burning. Eastport, L. I., April 20.—Sparks from a locomotive yesterday set fire to a tract of forest about two miles northeast of here. The flames spread rapidly and a number of miles of the forest have been laid bare. No damage to personal property or danger to life is feared.



## POWELL MURDER WITNESS GONE.

Frederick Tolliver Has Disappeared from Home with a Roll of Money.

Trial of Arthur Mayhew and John Wayne, the Accused, Cannot Proceed.

DETECTIVES HINT AT BRIBERY.

Negro Displays Considerable Money Before His Mother and Brother, and Tells Them He Intends to Leave Hempstead.

When the trial of Arthur Mayhew and John Wayne, the two negroes who are charged with the murder of Stephen Powell, of Hempstead, L. I., was called in the Supreme Court for Queens County yesterday, Frederick Tolliver was missing. Out of the forty-three witnesses subpoenaed, Tolliver is the most important. He can identify Wayne's pipe, which was found near the scene of the murder, and can describe the two men whom he saw hastily running from the spot where Mr. Powell



## Boy Train Wreckers on Trial at Rome, N. Y.

Rome, N. Y., April 20.—The trial of the youthful train wreckers, J. Watson Hildreth, of New York; Theodore Hibbard and Robert Plato, of Rome, opened here this afternoon at an adjourned term of the Supreme Court. It will probably take several days to get a jury.

On the morning of November 19, 1895, the eastbound limited fast mail on the New York Central Road, due here at 4:32, was thrown from the track about two and a half miles west of this station. Nathan N. Hager, of Albany, engineer of the train, and Robert Bond, of Syracuse, who was riding on a car platform, were killed. The fishplates and spikes had been removed from two rails. A hat belonging to Hildreth was found near the wreck.

Hildreth was arrested and made a clean breast of the whole affair. He said he, Plato, Hibbard and a lad named Fred Bristol, each about eighteen years old, had wrecked the train for the purpose of robbing the passengers, and said that the proposition was to kill them if necessary to secure their valuables. Plato and Hibbard made similar confessions, but Bristol denied his guilt.

All four were indicted for murder in the first degree. Bristol, who was in poor health when he was arrested, died in jail last February.

## MAN-FACED DONKEY GONE.

"Congo," the Coney Island Freak, Found Dead in His Stall—The Body Sent to Barren Island.

DIED.—Suddenly, "Congo," the Coney Island Freak, on Sunday, April 18, "Congo," in the 40th year of his age, Friends from the United States and Canada are expected to attend his funeral on Barren Island on Tuesday, 21st inst. Obit flowers.

Such would have been the death notice, had it been published, of "Congo," the human-faced donkey, who died suddenly of old age, in a stable on West Fifth-street, West Brighton, Coney Island, late Sunday night. No one was present at his straw bed when the end came.

"Congo" was a Kentucky bred mule, well formed and as black as coal. By some peculiar freak of nature his head was shaped very much like that of a negro.

Ten years ago L. D. Stein, better known as "Farmer Dan," who has spent years in presenting all kinds of "freaks" to the public in museums and circuses throughout the country. Scientists have wondered how he happened, and phenologists have studied his bumps and made charts of his same.

"Farmer Dan" estimates that he has cleared at least \$15,000 out of exhibiting the departed. For the past four summers Dan, who has a concert hall on the Bowery, coined money out of "Congo" in West Brighton. He used to put fancy trousers on the animal's all-fours, place shoes on his hoofs and a white pig hat on his head, making his appearance resemble the get-up of an old-time minstrel.

was struck down. Besides this he is supposed to know other things which may tend to convict Mayhew and Wayne. Mr. Noble procured the postponement of the murder trial until Friday. Then, if Tolliver is not found, the case will probably go over until the September term. If the missing witness does not appear then the trial will go on without him or may be abandoned.

Chief Detective Marston, of the District Attorney's office, seems to think that Tolliver was paid to disappear. Tolliver lived in Hempstead and was a shiftless sort of negro. He had no fixed occupation and did odd jobs about the town.

After the murder of old man Powell Tolliver unhesitatingly freely to the District Attorney, and it was on evidence supplied by him that the men were indicted. Most of the other witnesses were watched, but Tolliver appeared so eager to testify Mr. Noble thought it useless to watch him.

Tolliver was last seen in Hempstead last Thursday. He hurriedly entered his mother's home and exhibiting a handful of bills, said he was going away. He asked her for more money and she gave him fifty-five cents. Then Tolliver left.

On Friday Constable Gildersleeve was ordered to notify Tolliver to appear in court to-day. When the constable visited the Tolliver house he was informed the witness had left town. Detectives from the District Attorney's office were sent scurrying all over Queens County to find the witness. It was learned that Tolliver had been seen in Flushing, where his brother lives.

SPENDS MONEY FREELY. To that place one of the county officers went. He arrived on Saturday morning. He saw Tolliver's brother, and was told that the runaway had left town. While in Flushing Tolliver spent money freely and had a large roll of bills. On the night Mayhew was arrested for the murder of Mr. Powell he handed a roll of bills to Tolliver to give to Mrs. Mayhew. Subsequently this money was recognized as part of the money taken from Mr. Powell. The Tolliver, Mayhew and Wayne families are intimate, and a kinship exists between the Tollivers and Marks.

## MRS. CHARD'S BIRTHDAY.

Five Generations Celebrate with Aunt Hannah, the Centenarian of Ferret, N. J.

Vineland, N. J., April 20.—"Aunt Hannah" Chard celebrated her one hundred and seventh birthday at the home of her son Joel at Ferret, Gloucester County, to-day. Early in the morning cracker and farm wagons began to arrive and roads leading to the Chard homestead were thick with clouds of dust. Staid old farmers treated themselves to a holiday, and, killing their largest turkey, prepared for a grand picnic. "Aunt Hannah," seated in her rocker, greeted each comer with a pleasant smile and shake of the hand. After dinner the old lady filled her old clay pipe and entertained her visitors with stories of the past. She told them how wolves howled on the roof of her rude block house in years gone by.

As was expected, five generations of the Chard family were present, from "Aunt Hannah," at one hundred and seven, to a little tot in his mother's arms. Many congratulated the old woman on her good health, and hoped that they would again greet her on another such occasion.

When, late in the afternoon, the time for departure had arrived, many of the men dropped a dollar in the old lady's pocket and told her to spend it for tobacco and nicknacks.

## CORBIN GETS MANHATTAN.

He Secures Entire Control of the Big Seaside Hotel from J. Rogers Maxwell.

The big Manhattan Beach Hotel has passed into the hands of Austin Corbin, and he now controls both this and the Oriental Hotel. Mr. Corbin became sole owner of the concern a few days ago, when he purchased the stock of J. Rogers Maxwell, president of the New Jersey Central Railroad. There was a slight boom in the stock when the purchase was rumored last week. Mr. Corbin was seen yesterday and admitted having made the purchase, but said that he had not thought of improving the hotel.

The capital stock of the hotel company



was \$5,000,000. Some few years ago the stock was easily worth from thirty-five to forty cents on the dollar, but it depreciated steadily from year to year.

## APOLOGY AFTER BEATING.

Reuben Greenberg Attacked Miss Fox by Mistake and She Wants \$2,000 Damages.

An action has been instituted in the City Court by Miss Annie Fox, of No. 178 Madison street, against Reuben Greenberg, of No. 54 Jefferson street, for damages for slander and assault. Miss Fox alleges that on the night of March 29, as she left the Adler Theatre, at No. 104 Bovey Greenberg, who was unknown to her at that time, grabbed her hat and tore it, knocked her umbrella from her hand and struck her several blows in the face. Greenberg says this by impugning Miss Fox's character.

It was evidently a case of mistaken identity, for later Greenberg apologized. Greenberg was arrested Wednesday, and after languishing in Ludlow Street Jail for two days furnished a \$500 bond, and was released.

## ART AT THE LOTOS CLUB.

Ladies' Day Celebrated with a Water Color and Pastel Exhibition.

Yesterday was ladies' day at the Lotos Club. There was a fine exhibition of water colors and pastels. The collection including sixty-six choice works of well-known modern artists. The pictures were arranged by Mr. John Elderckis. The list of paintings included "The Sisters," by E. A. Abbey, loaned by Mr. Charles T. Barney; "Pandora" and "The Lion in Love," by E. S. Church, loaned by Mr. W. T. Evans. The "Pandora" attracted much attention. It represented a pink-robed, girlish figure kneeling upon the mysterious box, from which tiny gray and green imps were escaping. "An English Interior," by Walter Crane, loaned by Mr. Homer Lee, brought to mind the nursery days. It looked like a page torn from "Mother Goose."

## SNARING FLECHTER WITH MATHEMATICS.

Evidence Tending to Show That He Stole Professor Bott's Stradivarius.

Dr. Frazer Testifies to the Similarity of Writings Connecting Him with the Theft.

EXACT METHODS OF THE WITNESS.

After Scientific Calculation on the Letters Signed "Cave-Dweller" and "Personal," He Declares One Hand Wrote Both.

The trial of Victor S. Flechter, the Union square music dealer, charged with the theft of the celebrated Stradivarius violin formerly the property of Professor Bott, was resumed in Part I. of General Sessions yesterday.

David N. Carvalho, an expert in handwriting, who was on the witness stand when court adjourned on Friday last, was recalled, and notwithstanding a severe cross-examination by Mr. Palmer, Flechter's counsel, maintained that the two letters, photographic copies of which were in evidence, had been written by the same person.

Dr. Persifer Frazer, a professor in Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, and regarded as the leading authority on handwriting in this country, was the next witness. He testified that he had been a chemist and expert in handwriting for fifteen years. He had written a book on handwriting and had prepared many articles on the subject for the leading magazines.

His method of distinguishing similarity in handwriting, he said, was by measurement and mathematical precision. This was his own system, and a number of very accurate instruments were required in the work. He used, he said, a protractor for angling, a millimetre rule and a compound microscope, which magnifies about 800 times. With these instruments he takes the averages of curves, and works them out by rule.

A number of exhibits, comprising the letters offered in evidence and other specimens of the defendant's handwriting, were submitted to the witness. He produced his instruments, and in the presence of Recorder Goff and the attorneys on either side of the case, proceeded to demonstrate his system.

After examining the papers carefully he applied his instruments, and after a study of some minutes stated the result of his investigation. He said that the two letters which had been photographed, one signed "Cave Dweller," demanding a reward, and the other a "personal," offering a reward, were written by the same person.

He was cross-examined at length by Mr. Palmer. He said that this was his first appearance in the State of New York and that he received \$50 a day and expenses. He stated that he knew of no other expert who had adopted his system, but he was positive his manner of ascertaining conclusions was perfect.

An adjournment was then taken until this morning at 10:30.

## FURZE'S STRANGE TALE.

Vanished from Nutley in September, and Found Himself Last Week Penniless in Charleston, S. C.

Nutley, N. J., April 20.—The mystery which attended the disappearance of William J. Furze, of Chestnut street, last September, has been deepened. He returned to his home last night.

Furze says he remembered leaving his home and landing in New York City. From that time until about one week ago his memory was blank, and when he recovered his reason he found himself in Charleston, S. C., among entire strangers. All his money and jewelry were gone, but people took up a collection and sent him home. When he left Nutley last September, Furze says, he had a large sum of money with him. He thinks he was sandbagged in New York and shipped away.

## STABB WAS UNFORTUNATE.

Broke a Window and Then Went Where It Would Fall on Him.

Ernest Stabb, of No. 724 Park avenue, heard a noise at 3 o'clock yesterday morning and jumped out of bed to investigate.

Both the front windows were down from the top, a fact which Mr. Stabb forgot when he raised the lower one. Consequently he banged his head through the other window, narrowly escaping serious injury. Then he hurried down stairs and as he stood upon the front step the broken window fell down and struck him on the head.

He was unable to ascertain who had made the noise, and returned to bed.

## AGAIN LEZINSKY JUMPS A BLOCKADE.

Now the Hero of the \$20,000 Suit Against the Broadway Road Is Respected.

Changes Cars Without Permission and Doesn't Pay a Second Fare.

CONDUCTOR COGITATES IN SILENCE.

Secret Instructions May Have Been Given to Employees Not to Enforce Double Collection of Fares When Tracks Are Blocked.

During a blockade on the Broadway cable road on Sunday night Eugene Lezinsky, a passenger on one of the stalled cars, walked several blocks ahead of where the breakdown occurred, boarded a northbound car and rode to his destination without paying an extra fare or securing a transfer.

About a month ago this gentleman was a passenger on the same road when a blockade occurred. On that occasion he had ridden only four blocks when the car he was in became stalled. He left the car, boarded another, and when he refused to pay an extra fare, was arrested and taken to the Jefferson Market Police Court, where he was promptly discharged by the presiding Magistrate, who roundly scored the company for its high-handed treatment of passengers. Mr. Lezinsky subsequently brought a suit, which is still pending, against the company, through Hooley, Lauterbach & Johnson, for \$20,000 damages.

On Sunday evening Mr. Lezinsky and three friends stepped aboard cable car No. 340 at the Battery. Near White street the car came to a sudden stop, and after a wait of fifteen minutes the gripman poked his head in and announced that the grip on one of the cars near Canal street was broken.

The four gentlemen waited a few minutes, and then Mr. Lezinsky asked conductor "No. 307" for transfers for himself and friends, saying that they would walk beyond the blockade and board another car.

The conductor replied that he had no transfers. Without a word the party left the stalled car and walked up Broadway to where the workmen were repairing the break.

Finding the inspector who was in charge of the repairs, Mr. Lezinsky demanded transfers for himself and friends and was informed that transfers could be obtained only at a transfer station. The inspector refused to give his name, and after Mr. Lezinsky had taken the names of several witnesses who had heard his demand, he marched on up Broadway. At Houston street the southbound cars were being switched to the up track. Mr. Lezinsky and his three companions boarded one of the cars, and when the conductor, "No. 648," demanded their fares they refused to pay, explaining that they had already paid once to Conductor "No. 307."

Conductor "No. 648" scratched his head, cogitated for a moment and then passed on without insisting that the fares should be paid. In speaking of the case yesterday Mr. Lezinsky said: "I am fighting the cable company and trying to force them to issue transfers in

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## MRS. WONG HE CHONG'S MYSTERIOUS DEATH.

Doctors Think She Took Prussic Acid, but Are Not Sure.

She Had Left Her Children in China in Charge of Her Husband's First Wife.

STORY OF A QUARREL DENIED.

Wong Found Her in Convulsions, and Summoned Doctors, Who Arrived Too Late—Only an Analysis Will Reveal the Truth.

Mrs. Wong He Chong, wife of one of the wealthiest Chinese merchants in New York, died at her residence, No. 205 Eighth avenue, at 8 a. m. yesterday.

According to the story of the husband, Mrs. Chong awoke at 7 o'clock apparently in perfect health when her husband's cousin, Sun Kee, had prepared breakfast. Wong He Chong called his wife, but found her lying on a cot in her bedroom apparently in convulsions. On a table by her side was a Japanese cup. It was empty, but a peculiar crystalline substance clung to the bottom, and there was a strange odor in the atmosphere.

The Chinaman hastily summoned Dr. Patrick, of No. 249 West Twenty-fourth street, Dr. Campbell, of No. 320 West Twenty-third street, and Dr. Becker, of No. 321 West Eighteenth street, but they arrived too late.

The doctors sent for Dr. Tutthill, Cornell's physician, who, with Dr. O'Hanlon and the three physicians, performed an autopsy after the body had been removed to an undertaker's rooms.

When the autopsy was over Dr. Campbell said: "We didn't arrive at any definite conclusion. I said prussic acid in the first place, and I say prussic acid now."

Dr. O'Hanlon said: "All the organs were in good condition but the kidneys. The stomach was frightfully inflamed, and the liver badly congested. There was a strong suggestion of prussic acid."

While the autopsy was going on Wong He Chong sat in the inner office of the undertaking rooms, not under arrest, but under the ever watchful eye of Patrolman James Churchill. His manner was placid in the early hours of the day, but as time wore on and he began to realize the gravity of the situation he became a little nervous.

In the morning he stated that he had been married but once. He was forty-seven and she twenty-six, he said, and they had been married in San Francisco eight years ago. Two children resulted from the union, and these were left with an uncle in Canton, China, when the couple returned seven weeks ago from an eighteen months' visit to their old home.

He admitted that he had another wife in China, and that it was with her he had left the children, born of the second wife. A child by his first wife is now attending a private school in Newark, N. J.

Another feature of the case that added to the general air of mystery was the actions of John W. Donnelly, an Englishman, who lives at No. 322 West Forty-second street, and who for six years has been Wong He Chong's private secretary. Patrolman Churchill said that Donnelly told him he had heard a violent quarrel between the Chinaman and his wife, but when questioned he denied that he had ever made such a statement.

Chong was visibly affected when he was told of the autopsy.

"Why did you cut my wife?" he said. "To find out what killed her."

"No, no, like that. No cut dead woman in China."

And it appeared to worry him greatly. So much so that he added rather abstractedly: "She buy medicine many times, but no tell me what it was."

Dr. Tutthill attempted to find out from the chief of the Chemical Department of the Health Board the result of the analysis of the stomach's contents, but the only reply



Mrs. Wong He Chong, Her Baby, Her Husband and His Private Secretary.

cases of blockades. If other citizens would follow my